REMARKS

This Amendment is fully responsive to the non-final Office Action dated July 17, 2008, issued in connection with the above-identified application. Claims 1-50 were previously pending in the present application. With this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 16 have been amended; and claims 19-50 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the present application. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments made to the claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

To facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, the Applicants have provided amendments to the specification and the abstract. The changes to the specification and abstract include minor editorial and clarifying changes. A substitute specification and abstract are enclosed. Additionally, a marked-up copy of the original specification and abstract are also enclosed. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments made to the specification and the abstract.

In the Office Action, claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Richards et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,230,267, hereafter "Richards"). The Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the reasons noted below.

Independent claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 16 have been amended to help further distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art. Additionally, claim 8 (as originally presented) recites features that are not believed to be disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art. For example, claim 8 recites the following features:

"[a] semiconductor integrated circuit device having a second storage means in a semiconductor integrated circuit, in which a program that makes an arithmetic processing unit in the semiconductor integrated circuit perform an operation of processing contents is rewritably stored, and performing rewriting of the program stored in the second storage means using a first storage means in which a rewrite program for rewriting is stored, which rewrite program makes the arithmetic processing unit perform an operation of processing the contents;

wherein the rewrite program includes a check program for checking whether the program is correct or not;

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the semiconductor integrated circuit is provided with a work memory for the arithmetic processing unit, and a connection switching means for switching the connection between the second storage means or the work memory, and the program input or the data input of the arithmetic processing unit; and

the check program that is extracted from the rewrite program stored in the second storage means is stored in the work memory, and the arithmetic processing unit is operated by the check program stored in the work memory, <u>thereby to check whether the rewrite program is correct or not</u>." (Emphasis added).

The features noted above in independent claim 8 are similarly recited in independent claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 16, as amended. Additionally, the features noted above are fully supported by the Applicants disclosure (see e.g., Figs. 1-3, 5 and 8).

The present invention (as recited in claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 16) is distinguishable from the cited prior art in that the semiconductor integrated circuit device is operable to check or judge whether a rewrite program, which is secret information that is not leaked to a third party, stored in a RAM memory is correct or correctly stored. No such feature is believed to be disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Richards for disclosing or suggesting all the features recited in independent claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 16. However, Richards discloses a method and apparatus for securely transporting data to an integrated circuit (IC) card. As described in Richards, a transmitting entity 1 encrypts data to be transmitted to the IC card 3 using a public key of the IC card 3. The transmitting entity 1 then transmits the encrypted data 11 to an interface 5 and to the IC card 3. The IC card 3 then uses its own private key (also called secret key) to decrypt and gain access to the data. In Richards, the public and private keys are implemented so that only an intended party is able to decrypt and access transmitted data (see e.g., col. 5, lines 51-61).

Based on the above discussion, although Richards appears to disclose or suggest the transfer of encrypted data, nothing in Richards discloses or suggests a method or system that checks or judges whether the data being transferred and stored is correct or not. Thus, the present invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 16, is clearly distinguished

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over the system and method disclosed in Richards. In particular, the system and method disclosed in Richards is directed to making sure that data transfer is secure, whereas the present invention is directed to making sure that the data transferred is also correct.

For at least the reasons noted above, independent claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 16 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Richards. Additionally, claims 3, 4, 6 and 9-18 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Richards at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 16.

In light of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections presented in the Office Action dated July 17, 2008, and pass the present application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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